



CHICAGO

{ PARENTS' HANDBOOK }

Summer 2014 - 5774

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2014 season of Camp Gan Israel. We are delighted that you are joining us and hope that your children will have a wonderful experience. Our staff is eager to greet your children and there are many new and exciting programs planned for this year. CGI is committed to providing a safe and exciting day camp experience for Jewish children in the Chicago area.

We hope this booklet provides you with all the necessary information for this year's camp season. Please take note of the new procedures, policies, and programming for this year. If you have any concerns, suggestions, or questions, please feel free to call and discuss them with us.

On behalf of the entire camp staff, we thank you for enrolling your child (or children!) in Camp Gan Israel. You will discover that your child's summer at Camp Gan Israel will be a summer of fun, friendship, and adventure, which will be remembered for years to come. We are looking forward to an exciting summer!

Best wishes,

Schneur & Ester Scheiman

Camp Directors



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{ WHEN & WHERE }



The **MAIN DIVISION** is located at Northbrook Community Synagogue (2548 Jasper Court) in Northbrook.

The **BOYS SENIOR DIVISION** is located at Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook, 2095 Landwehr Rd. (just south of Techny) in Northbrook.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

for **both divisions** will take place at the Main Division location: 2548 Jasper Ct. At 9:15, the campers will be transported to their building. The Senior Division boys will be transported back to the main location for 3:30 pick up.

Any Senior Division campers who will be arriving after 9:15 must be dropped off at their location at 2095 Landwehr Rd.



CAMP BEGINS

on **MONDAY, JUNE 23RD**, and runs through **FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH**.

The summer is divided into two sessions and one bonus week:

Session 1: June 23rd through July 11th

Session 2: July 14th through August 1st

Bonus Week: August 4th through August 8th

There will be no camp on **Friday, July 4th** or on **Tuesday, August 5th**
SEE PAGE 10 FOR TEEN CAMP DATES



THE CAMP DAY

begins at **9:15 AM** and ends at **3:30 PM**.

Please note the timing which is in effect for all campers.

Supervision for children who need to be dropped earlier in either camp begins at 9:00. In order to ensure your child's safety, if you need to drop your child off earlier than 9:00, please see the extended care section below, or call our office.

EXTENDED CARE

Our extended care program is available from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm on Mondays – Thursdays and until 4:30 pm on Fridays.

Please call our office to register in advance so that we can plan accordingly.

Campers find it hard to adjust when they come late, and worry when their parents don't pick them up on time. Please be prompt.



{ IMPORTANT NUMBERS }

CAMP ON-SITE TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Main Division: 847-857-7704

Boys Senior Division: 847-857-7705.

Camp Administration Office: (847) 485-9770

CGI CELL PHONES:

Rabbi S. Scheiman: (847) 345-6406

Mushkie Notik: (847) 730-7035

Ester Scheiman: (847) 345-6405

EMAIL:

info@ganisraelchicago.com

WEBSITE:

www.GanIsraelChicago.com

{ MEET OUR STAFF }

Child development is the most significant ingredient in a healthy camp experience. This is why our staff is the real secret to our success. Our experienced counselors are known for their personal warmth and ability to care for each child as an individual. The counselors' love and appreciation for their campers is surpassed only by the children's love for them.

We take great pride in our commitment to recruiting, training and keeping the highest quality staff in the camping profession. Camp Gan Israel is dedicated to exceptional staff supervision. This ensures the best possible care, instruction and supervision for our campers. Our counselors are CPR and First Aid Certified, and are dedicated and committed to caring for your child.

☀️ **RABBI SCHNEUR AND ESTER SCHEIMAN** • Directors

Rabbi Schneur and Ester Scheiman have been directing Camp Gan Israel for the past 7 years. Both natives of Des Plaines, IL they have a shared passion for Jewish education and imbuing today's Jewish children with a sense of love and excitement for their heritage.

☀️ **MUSHKIE NOTIK** • Administrative Assistant

Mushkie has been part of the CGI family for the past 5 years. During the school year she manages the office duties of CGI and teaches in Lubavitch Girls High School. Mushkie will be on-site at camp this summer assuming responsibility for daily operations and communication with parents.

☀️ **SHTERNI SCHEIMAN** • Assistant Director

Shterni has extensive experience gained through working in various CGI camps around the country and being a Head Counselor here in Chicago. She has spent the past year being a dorm counselor in Bnos Menachem High School for girls in Brooklyn, NY, caring for the needs of the out of town students. This summer she will be in camp directing the daily activities and ensuring the safety of our campers.

☀️ **CHANA SHANOWITZ** • Head Counselor

Chana has spent her previous summers as a counselor in various CGI locations all around the country in cities like Plano, TX; Kalkaska, MI; and Weston, FL. Chana attended Lubavitch Girls High School in Chicago before going to seminary in Israel where she studied education and Chassidic philosophy. More recently, Chana returned to Chicago to be a dorm counselor at Lubavitch Girls High School where she sensitively catered to the needs of out-of-town students. Chana has been vigorously working to ensure a summer of fun for our campers and she is excited to share her spunk and energy with the CGI family.

 **SHMULY POSNER** • Boys Senior Division Head

Shmuly and his wife Mushkie are joining CGI Chicago this year from Brooklyn, NY. Shmuly's past experiences include directing student outreach activities and summer camps in cities around the world including Sydney, Australia; S. Monica, CA; Toronto and Montreal, CA. Shmuly is excited to bring his professional camping experience from all over the world to CGI Chicago.

 **CHAIM SCHANOWITZ** • Boys Senior Division Head

Chaim and his wife Mina moved to Deerfield this year to direct Chabad of Deerfield. During the school year, Chaim also teaches at Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School in Skokie, helping children find the joy and excitement in learning. A native of Chicago, Chaim has worked in summer camps and student outreach positions all over the world. His travels have included Moscow, Romania, Israel, Michigan, Vermont, and Virginia. Chaim has also previously spent his summer working in CGI Chicago and he is excited to be back in his hometown and bring his expertise to his own community.

 **MARC PECHTER** • Sports Director

Marc is a coach at Deerfield High School and he is excited to be back at CGI Chicago and share his experience with all of our campers. Please see below for a synopsis of this year's sports curriculum.

{ PROGRAM & POLICIES }

JEWISH PRIDE - ACTION CLASSES

Each morning we start our day with a short prayer session followed by our Jewish Pride – Action Classes in which our campers are imbued with a deep sense of pride in their Jewish heritage. During our daily Action Classes, campers explore the beauty and value of our tradition through motivational hands-on activities, stories, games and group discussions.

GENERAL PROGRAM

Camp Gan Israel provides a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and games that provide entertainment and education.

Activities include sports, arts & crafts, drama, dance, creative games and hunts and water sports. Each activity is designed with creative excitement which engages all participants.

Campers are encouraged to participate in all activities to promote unity in the group. Exceptions are made if an activity is medically not advisable.

Our specialized activities have trained instructors who orient staff and campers to the specific safety and operating procedures for each specialized activity.

DIVISIONS

MAIN DIVISION (Girls entering 1st – 4th Grade, Boys entering 1st – 3rd grade)

Carefully designed to broaden the children's horizons and at the same time satisfy their emotional and physical needs, Our youngest age group allows for the "TLC" under which our youngest campers flourish. This division grows with your child, expanding its programming to fit our older campers' new interests in "big kid" activities as they look forward to moving on into the Pioneer divisions.

GIRLS PIONEERS (Girls entering 5th and 6th Grade)

Our second division is fully integrated into the camp program and benefits from our coaches, swim instructors, artists, and specialists. This division is designed especially for our long time campers with age appropriate activities and skill building workshops. The girls Pioneer division will also feature a Shabbaton and a special trip to Six Flags Great America.

BOYS SENIOR DIVISION (boys entering 4th – 6th Grade)

Campers in this division have the opportunity to participate in our specialty programming and field trips in the main division while having the added benefit of their own space and freedom in terms of age appropriate activities that will be designed specifically for them.

TEEN CAMP (boys and girls entering grades 7–9)

Independent of our other divisions, the boys and girls teen camps are specially designed to give our teen campers the summer of a lifetime. Camper will be treated to full day trips, late nights, and overnights as well as participating in skill clubs and workshops catered to their age level.

Teen Camp Sessions run from Monday July 7-August 1st. A separate trip calendar will be forthcoming.

T.G.I.C.G.I. ELECTIVES CLUBS

Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, is “T.G.I C.G.I. time” (Thank G-d It’s Camp Gan Israel), in which multiple activities are offered simultaneously, for children to choose the activity of their choice.

This year, the T.G.I. forms will be submitted online to ensure that no forms get lost. Before the start of camp, please review the choices and fill out the online form with your child. (Certain courses may be available for a limited number of campers, and will be assigned based upon date of registration and timely submission of forms.)

TZEDAKAH

Tzedakah (charity) is a concept that is fundamental to Judaism. Our camp attempts to develop a commitment among our campers to share with others less fortunate than themselves by donating a few pennies every day to charity. Parents are requested to send a few coins for Tzedakah every day with your child.

DRESS CODE

For safety reasons, it is mandatory and extremely important for all campers to wear their camp T-shirts on trip days. Boys are encouraged to wear a kippa or baseball cap. Campers will be given special CGI wrist bands to wear on field trips.

CGI will be providing one complimentary T-shirt per camper. If you would like to order an extra t-shirt for your child or an authentic CGI baseball cap, please fill out the order form online.

SWIMMING

On swim days, please send a swimsuit and towel in a tote or plastic bag with your child/ren. Please have all bathing suits and towels clearly marked with your child's name in permanent ink or labels. Campers swim three afternoons a week; refer to the calendar and weekly letters for exact days. This year, swimming will take place indoors at the Playdium in Glenview and in the North Suburban YMCA. All swimming will be supervised by the aquatics staff from the North Suburban YMCA in addition to the CGI staff. The pool is rented for our exclusive use.

SPORTS

Our Sports Director, **Marc Pechter**, has prepared an extensive sports curriculum especially for our campers. Campers will take part in activities with themes like Team work, Sportsmanship, Character, and Honesty. Marc will teach our campers to perfect their techniques in: Kicking/Dribbling Ball/Throw-in, Shooting/Passing/Dribbling.

If your child has any limitations that will prevent him/her from any sports activities please let us know.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips are an exciting part of CGI. It is important for the safety of all campers to wear Camp T-Shirts on ALL trip Days. See below for a list of CGI Field Trips for this summer.

ACTION TERRITORY: Located in Kenosha, Action Territory is one of the Midwest's finest outdoor family entertainment complexes. With eleven acres and a multitude of activities for all ages, all CGI campers are sure to have a blast! (go carting, mini golf, Jump basketball, arcades, and obstacle courses).

AZOOSMENT PARK: The Azoosment Park in East Dundee is an exciting trip for all campers that combines the thrill of an amusement park with the fun of a farm. A full petting zoo with the opportunity to feed the animals and exciting rides make this trip a sure hit for CGI!

BROOKFIELD ZOO: Brookfield Zoo is a Chicago tourist attraction for visitors from all over the world. Campers will get to look at all different types of animals and learn all about the differences in living environments and food choices of all the animals.

EJ'S: CGI Campers will get the chance to make their very own personal sized kosher pizza pie at Ej's Pizzeria in Skokie. Campers are also treated to fries and a fountain drink!

ELK GROVE GYMNASTICS SCHOOL: Campers will be treated to an hour and a half of exciting gymnastics activities led by professionally certified gymnasts.

LAKE COUNTY FAIR: A day at the Fair! CGI Campers get to ride the rides, watch the shows, and enjoy the sights of the Lake County Fair Expo.

ODYSSEY FUN WORLD: Odyssey Fun World located in Naperville has been a CGI favorite for years. Campers will have fun playing in the indoor playground, riding the amusement rides, and playing the exciting arcade games.

PAINT N' PARTY: Campers will use their creative sides to choose a piece of pottery and paint it in any way that they want. Located in Golf Mill, Paint N' Party has over 400 pottery pieces and 120 colors to choose from.

PINSTRIPES (Boys Pioneers Only): Pinstripes offers a new spin on an old favorite. Pioneer campers will bowl in style at Pinstripes, located in Northbrook, with leather couches, drinks, and complimentary socks for all players.

PONTOON RIDES AT FOX LAKE: Fox Lake, Illinois is home to some of the most beautiful bodies of water in the state. Boating at Fox Lake is a fun and exhilarating summer activity where CGI campers will be treated to pontoon rides driven by licensed drivers. As this trip is a highlight of the summer, we'll be having a return trip during Bonus Week!

ROLLER SKATING: A favorite among CGI campers, this year's roller skating trip will take place at Hot Wheels Roller Rink in Mundelein. Campers will love the big open spaces available to them as they skate around with friends and counselors.

TERRA SOUNDS: A unique concept in music education, the instructors at Terra Sounds are friendly and share the love of music with anyone who walks through the door. CGI Campers will be treated to a fun drum circle while learning basic drumming techniques

THE GROVE: A historic landmark located in Glenview, The Grove gives campers the opportunity to really experience the joys and challenges of life in the 1800's. Campers will enjoy private tours of the grounds and all of the attractions at The Grove.

XTREME TRAMPOLINES: Campers will have a blast jumping, flipping, and diving into pits of foam fun at xTreme Trampolines in Buffalo Grove. Socks are required for this trip.

Bonus Week Trips:

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY: An attraction for all Chicago visitors, Museum of Science and Industry houses some of the most interesting exhibits and historical fact displays. Campers will have a blast while observing and learning about science and technology in a hands-on way

ENCHANTED CASTLE: An indoor building of fun, Enchanted Castle features arcade games, mini golf, and amusement rides.

HOLLYWOOD PARK: Arcades, Go Karts, and a brand new Laser Room are all part of the fun at Hollywood Park. Campers will be treated to a day of fun and games as they enjoy the exciting outdoor attractions.

SUNSCREEN

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to apply sunscreen on your child in the mornings before camp. Please send a bottle of your preferred sunscreen along with your child for reapplication throughout the day. Sunscreen will be reapplied by counselors on outdoor trip days. If your child has extra sensitive skin or any type of skin condition, please be sure to let us know.

LUNCH

New for this year, CGI will be offering a weekly hot lunch program, catered by Chicago Tailgators. The cost for this program is \$28 per week. All orders must be made online at ganisraelchicago.com/lunch at least one week in advance.

If you choose not to participate in the hot lunch program, please provide your child with a clearly labeled lunch with food that will remain fresh at room temperature. Lunches must be either dairy or parve (neutral). Parve food includes bread, vegetables, fruit, fish and eggs. Please do not send meat products to camp. Camp will provide all children with plenty of water to drink and a daily snack. It is advisable to send extra drinks or canteens for trip days or very hot days.

PERSONAL PROPERTY AND CLOTHING

Camp cannot take responsibility for personal property brought to camp. If campers bring iPods, cell phones, digital cameras, or any other expensive item to camp, and they are brought out while camp is in session they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. If campers or staff bring potentially dangerous articles to camp, such as skateboards, slingshots, etc. they will be confiscated by the Director. The Director will either return to camper or staff at the end of the day or call parents.

Any clothing or personal materials that are brought to camp should be clearly marked with your child's name. There will be a Lost and Found box at Camp for any lost items.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION

If your child has any special challenges, conditions or allergies (i.e. social, behavioral, food) please bring it to our attention. This knowledge will help us care for him/her and maximizing his/her camp experience, as we address each individual's needs properly and eliminate unnecessary difficulties.

The camp has a staff member dedicated to overseeing and administering medication and dealing with health-

related concerns. All medication to be administered during camp hours must be clearly marked with camper's name and be provided in its original container. A separate note containing dosage instruction and parent's signature must be sent as well. Please call Rabbi or Mrs. Scheiman at the numbers listed above to discuss your child's health situation.

EMERGENCIES

In case of any medical emergency requiring more than basic first aid, the parents/guardians will be immediately notified. If we cannot reach the parents, the emergency contact on file will be notified. Our staff are certified to provide CPR/First Aid if G-d forbid, this is necessary.

After any incident or injury, parents will be notified. Parents may be asked to pick up their child from camp if the Health Supervisor deems it necessary.

For ways to contact camp in case of an emergency, please see the "important numbers" section in this handbook.

BONUS WEEK OF CAMP

CGI will be offering an extra **EXTENSION** of your child's favorite camp in the world! A bonus week of camp will take place from August 4 to August 8. Every day there will be a field trip to another exciting venue in Chicagoland! The cost for the CGI Bonus week is \$235.

COMMUNICATION AND EMAIL

If you need to reach someone at camp during the day, please call the on-site phone numbers. If no one answers, or if it is after hours, please call Rabbi S. Scheiman's cell phone for all general matters and matters pertaining to the boys camp, and Mushkie Notik's cell for matters pertaining to the girls camp. You can also e-mail Rabbi Scheiman at info@GanIsraelChicago.com, e-mails will probably not be answered during camp hours.

Camp correspondence with parents will take place through e-mail and notes handed out in camp to your child. Please check your child's bag as well as your e-mail on a regular basis. E-mails will be sent to the e-mail address provided with the registration.

WWW.GANISRAELCHICAGO.COM

Our website is updated daily with new pictures, weekly newsletters, and important relevant information regarding trips and required forms. Please be sure to check the website often to be kept up to date.

{ TRANSPORTATION }

CHICAGO & SKOKIE BUS

Parents whose children will be utilizing camp-provided transportation are asked to remain with them until the children have boarded the bus. Counselors on board the bus will supervise the bus ride to camp.

The bus schedule is listed below.

FREE Stop (Devon and Richmond)	Pickup: 8:20 a.m.	Drop off: 4:30 p.m.
Adas Yeshurun Stop (Touhy and Albany)	Pickup: 8:30 a.m.	Drop off: 4:20 p.m.
Chabad of Skokie stop (Dempster and Karlov)	Pickup: 8:45 a.m.	Drop off: 4:05 p.m.

Please review the following safety rules with your child:

- No arms or hands outside the windows.
- No standing on bus.
- No shouting.
- Always listen to the bus driver and bus monitor.
- Exit the bus only according to the instructions of the driver or monitor.

NOTE: Violation of any of the above bus discipline rules may result in a suspension of a camper's bus riding privileges. Riding on the bus is a privilege, not a right.

VAN TRANSPORTATION (SUBURBS)

Van transportation will be provided in the suburbs by DTN Transportation. If you paid for transportation, David will be contacting you shortly before camp to discuss the details. Once camp begins, please call David with any questions or changes, his phone number is (847) 344-0586. If you can't reach David and it's urgent, please call Rabbi Scheiman.

{ TUITION & FEES }

Tuition fees cover all activities and trips. There is a separate fee for "optionals" such as hot lunch, late nights, overnights and Shabbatons, which are to be paid for individually.

All tuition fees must be paid in full prior to June 1st, as we are a non-profit organization and depend on this money for operation. Your child will not be allowed in camp without the full balance paid.

{ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS }

How does my child find lost items?

Please mark all belongings with your child's name. This is very important since camp t-shirts are identical and individual items are difficult to identify without a label. Lost & Found items are available each day in the office.

How do I arrange to pick up my child during the camp day?

If you have to pick up your camper during the day, please notify our office. Once we are aware of your arrival time, we can arrange to have your child ready for you. We cannot release campers without parental permission.

What does my child need each day?

Campers should bring a non-meat lunch, water bottle and sunscreen everyday. A bathing suit and towel should be sent on Swim Days and the **Camp T-Shirt is mandatory on Trip Days.**

Is there anything my child should NOT bring to camp?

Campers should not bring jewelry, cell phones, electronic games, radios, head phones, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers will need for each day's activities.

How can I speak with my child's counselor?

A call to Rabbi or Mrs. Scheiman will answer most questions. Since counselors are constantly supervising groups and activities, we can have them call you after camp. You can also email staff@ganisraelchicago.com with the counselors name in the subject line.



CHICAGO

**HAVE A HAPPY
& HEALTHY SUMMER!**